that said test shall be deemed to be the recognized medical qualification for the purpose of this Act for that person. The dental qualifications granted by any authority or institution which are recognized are given in Part III of the Schedule of The Dentists Act, 1948.

Combating the Bird Flu

373. SHRI THENNALAG BALAKRISHNA PILLAI:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared itself fully to combat the Bird Flu epidemic;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the decision taken in the meeting chaired by the Prime Minister in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No case of Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) has been reported in India either in humans or birds.

However, Government of India took adequate measures to prevent entry of Avian Influenza in to India and to contain the disease if it has to happen in poultry or humans. The measures instituted are:

- A Joint Monitoring Group under the Chairmanship of Director General of Health Services constituting members from Indian Council of Medical Research, National Institute of Communicable Diseases, World Health Organization and Department of Animal Husbandry is monitoring the situation ever since the WHO alerted the global community and advising appropriate actions to the Government.
- The Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has prepared and circulated an Action Plan for State Animal Husbandry

Departments in respect of Bird Flu for taking action in case of suspicion of outbreak of the disease and also in the event of outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). A conference of the State Secretaries of Animal Husbandry was held regarding preparedness in case of outbreak of the disease.

- Department of Animal Husbandry has intensified surveillance and disease intelligence. Samples so far tested at High Security Animal Disease Laboratory (HSADL), Bhopal were found negative. Training has been imparted to the staff of the State Wildlife and the Animal Husbandry Department, how to collect and dispatch the samples to the laboratory for testing.
- There is a total ban in place against import of poultry and poultry related products from all countries affected with bird flu outbreak. (Even birds [grant parent stock of poultry etc.) imported from highly pathogenic avian influenza free countries are subjected to quarantine and screening.
- Department of Environment and Forests has issued instructions to all their Wild Life Wardens to keep a watch on death of migratory birds in identified water bodies. Any unusual death among migratory birds would immediately be brought to the notice of Department of Animal Husbandry.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is regularly reviewing the situation. A National Consultation Meeting on Pandemic Preparedness was held on 1 "August, 2005 with all stakeholders to finalize pandemic preparedness and Response Plan.
- A contingency plan for managing human cases of avian influenza has been finalized detailing immediate action to be taken to deal with any suspected outbreak. The State level action plan will be discussed with the State Governments, shortly.
- The com ponents of the action plan such as hospitals strengthening, Influenza Surveillance Network, laboratory strengthening in terms of bio-safety labs, personal protective equipments, stockpiling of drugs and Information Education Communication are being taken up in a phased manner.

- An Inter Ministerial Task Force has been constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary (H&FW) to ensure availability of drugs, vaccines and all other aspects for management of Avian Influenza in the country.
- National Institute of Communicable Diseases has been identified as the nodal agency for monitoring Avian Influenza and for investigating outbreaks. Under the aegis of ICMR, an Human Influenza surveillance network has been operationalised.
- The situation has also been reviewed by Committee of Secretaries and Ministry of Home Affairs.

Because of the proactive steps taken by the Government, there is no spread of Avian Influenza from neighbouring countries in to India.

Dengue and Malaria cases in Delhi

374. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dengue and malaria cases, separately, so far reported during 2005 in Delhi and the number of deaths that occurred as a result thereof;

(b) how do this figures compare with those of the previous two years i.e., 2003 and 2004; and

(c) the reasons for higher cases of dengue and malaria this year and the steps taken/proposed to be taken to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Dengue and malaria are the seasonal and epidemic prone diseases. Dengue is caused by virus and transmitted by Aedes mosquito which breeds in man made mosquitogenic condition such as ornamental tanks, flower vases, discarded tins, bottles, tyres, overhead tanks, unused tyres, coolers etc. particularly during and post rainy season as the water gets collected in various containers which helps in breeding of Aedes mosquitoes. Reported number